

PORTIA OWUSU
Department of English
Texas A&M University
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EDUCATION

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| PhD | University of London (SOAS), Africana Literature
Advisors: Dr. Kai Easton (chair), Prof. Maryemma Graham (University of Kansas) | July 2017 |
| MA | University of York (England), Global Literature and Culture
Advisor: Prof. David Attwell | Jan 2010 |
| BA | University of Kent (England), English and American Literature
with a study abroad at the University of Kansas | Jul 2008 |

POSITIONS HELD

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| Texas A&M University , College Station
Assistant Professor Department of English | 2021- Present |
| Texas A&M University , College Station
Visiting Assistant Professor / ACES Fellow, Department of English | 2019 - 2021 |
| University of Kent , Canterbury, England
2019 Lecturer (Assistant Professor) in American Literature, Department of English | 2017 -2019 |
| University of Warwick , Coventry, England
Teaching Fellow in American Literature, Department of English and Comparative Literature | 2016 - 2017 |

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

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| US-UK Fulbright Commission
Postgraduate Visiting Scholar Award | 2015 |
| Texas A&M University
Accountability, Climate, Equity, and Scholarship (ACES) | 2019-21 |

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Spectres from the Past: Slavery and the Politics of "History in West African and African-American Literature, New York: Routledge, 2020.

Book Chapters

"Frantz Fanon and the Rhetoric of Violence in the Black Power Movement" in Raussert, Wilfried and Matti Steinitz. *Black Power in Hemispheric Perspective Movements and Cultures of Resistance in the Black Americas*. New Orleans: University of New Orleans Press, 2022.

"Fighting Fire with Fire: Violence and the Black Liberation Movement" in Perkins, Kathy A., et al. *The Routledge Companion to African American Theatre and Performance*. New York: Routledge, 2018.

Book Reviews

Converging Identities: Blackness in the Modern African Diaspora by Hettie V. Williams (Book Review). *African Studies Quarterly* Volume 15, Issue 2, March 2015

Journal Articles

"Of Life and Death: African Cultural Worldviews and Black American Survival in Toni Morrison's *Song of Solomon* and Amiri Baraka's *Slave Ship*" (Accepted: forthcoming in *Comparative Literature Studies*), 2022

Research in Progress

"A State of Exception: Necro-politics and Black Childhoods in Angie Thomas' *The Hate U Give* and Anthony Groom's *Bombingham*" Part of a book length project on death and mourning in the African diaspora.

Other Publications

"[Slavery, Lived Realities, and the Decolonisation of Forced Migration Histories](#)" *Migration Studies*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2022 co-authored with Estella Carpi

"Furious Flowers – 25 Years of African-American Poetry", The University of Kansas' Project on the History of Black Writing (<http://www.projecthbw.ku.edu>) Nov. 15, 2019

"[Homegoing – A Tale of One Tree and its Many Branches](#)", The University of Kansas' Project on the History of Black Writing (<http://www.projecthbw.ku.edu/uncategorized/homegoing-tale-of-one-tree-and-its-many/>) July 28, 2016

"In Toni Morrison's Latest Novel, Black (Children's) Lives Matter" (Book Review). The University of Kansas' Project on the History of Black Writing (<http://projecthbw.blogspot.co.uk/2015/05/in-toni-morrisons-latest-novel-black.html>) May 2015

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Texas A&M University, College Station

- Introduction to Africana Literature (Spring 2020)
- African-American Literature Post-1930 (Fall 2021 / Spring 2022)

- Rhetoric and Composition (Fall 2021)
- Introduction to African American Literature: Beginnings to the Present (Spring 2022)

University of Kent, Canterbury, England

Lecturer (Assistant Professor) in American Literature, Department of English

- Writing America (Fall 2017)
- American Crime Fiction (Fall 2017)
- From Harlem to Hogan's Alley: Black Writing in North America (Spring 2017/18)
- American Modernities (Spring 2017/18)
- Literary Forms (Fall 2018)
- Reading and Writing the Everyday (Fall 2018)
- The Contemporary (Spring 2018)

University of Warwick, Coventry, England

Teaching Fellow in American Literature, Department of English and Comparative Literature

- US Writing and Culture (Academic year 2016-17)
- Black Women Writers in North America (Academic year 2016-17)

CONFERENCES AND INVITED PRESENTATION

Invited Presentations

- "Slavery from African Perspectives". The African History Society, New York, June 20, 2021
- "African Philosophies of Death and its manifestations in the Diaspora". The Melbern G. Glasscock Center for Humanities Research, Texas A&M University, Texas. February 2, 2021.
- "Riot and Refrain: Toni Morrison". The Nottingham Contemporary, Nottingham, England. March 2, 2021.
- "Home in Song of Solomon". The 66th Annual Conference of the Japan Black Studies Association (JBSA), Meiji Gakuin University, Tokyo, Japan. June 27-28, 2020 (cancelled due to COVID-19)
- "Black Power: Movements, Cultures and Resistance in the Black Americas". 2nd International Conference of the Black Americas Network. Bielefeld University, Germany, Oct 17 -19, 2018.
- "Methods of Inquiry in Africana Studies". Texas A&M University, Texas, 23 March 2016.
- New Scholars Panel: "Dialogue Between Africa and the African Diaspora in Languages, Literatures, and Film". 76th Annual Convention of the College Language Association, Houston, Texas. April 6-9, 2016.
- "The Americas as Space of Entanglement(s): (Trans)Cultural Mobility in the Americas". Bielefeld University, Germany. May 6 -8, 2013.
- "Language Matters IV: Reading and Teaching Toni Morrison in Translation". Université de Paris 8 - Saint Denis, Paris, France. November 4-7, 2010.

Moderated Presentations

- "The Black Book and Documenting Black History in the Age of Digital Media". The Toni Morrison Society Seventh Biennial Conference, New York City, New York. July 21-24 2016.
- "Virtually Brilliant: interpreting Morrison's Works in the Virtual World in Second life / l'oeuvre de

- *Toni Morrison à l'heure du virtuel (Second life)*” The Toni Morrison Society, Université de Paris 8 -Saint Denis, Paris, France. November 4-7, 2010

Conference Papers

- “The African Immigrant in Yaa Gyasi’s novels” College Language Association 81st Annual Convention, Atlanta, April 6-9, 2022. (Cancelled due to COVID-19)
- “Remnants of the Past: Readings of West African Traditions and Philosophies of Death in Contemporary African-American literature,” 36th Annual MELUS Conference, New Orleans. March 24-27, 2022
- ““A Great Tree Has Fallen”: Euphemisms, Proverbs, Allusions and Akan Philosophy of Death and the Afterlife”. Cave Hill Philosophy Symposium, The University of West Indies, Barbados. April 22-24, 2020. (Cancelled due to COVID-19)
- “Mother Tongue, Foreign Words: English Language Education on the Identities of Youths”. Liberal Arts International Conference, Texas A&M University, Doha, Qatar. March 23-25, 2019
- “The Global, the Local and African Literature”. Liberal Arts International Conference, Texas A&M University, Doha, Qatar. February 4-6, 2018
- “Images of Africa in the Novels of Toni Morrison”. Global Morrison Conference, University of Greenwich, London. June 27-28, 2018.
- “Physical Mobilities: Diasporic Imaginings and Identity”. Conference of the Collegium for African American Research, Malaga, Spain. June 13-16, 2017.
- “All God's Chillun Got Wings”: The Search for Home in Twentieth Century African-American Travel Narratives. The Collegium of African American Research, Liverpool Hope University, England. June 24-28, 2015.
- “An Immoveable Bridge or Breach? The Slave Forts in Ghana and the Question of Black Cultural Identity”. African Studies Association UK Conference, University of Sussex, England. September 11, 2014.
- “African-Americans in Paris: An Illusion of Freedom?” Callaloo / University of Oxford, Oxford, England. November 27, 2013.
- “Reading the Silence as Trauma: Memories of the Slave Trade in West African and African American fiction. Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana, Ghana. October 24-26, 2013.
- “Decentred and localised constructions of memory, nationhood and ‘home’ in Africa and its diaspora” (with Sara Marzagora, King’s College, London). Critical methods beyond Eurocentrism: First annual postgraduate conference of the Centre for Cultural,, SOAS, University of London, England. June 14, 2013.
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